**Persons living Below Poverty Line**

2862. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living Below Poverty Line in the urban areas of the country and their percentage out of total urban population;

(b) whether the Central Government studied the similar conditions in other countries and the initiatives taken by them to successfully tackle the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the planning Commission estimates in 1999- 2000, the total number of persons living below the poverty line in urban areas of the country is 6.71 crore, and their percentage to the total urban population is 23.62%

(b) and (c) Though no such specific country-wise study has been carried out by the Minstry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, it has already been implementing employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally Sponsored Scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozagar Yojana, on all India basis since 1.12.1997 for the benefit of urban poor living below poverty line. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro interprises and also through provisions of wage employment by utilizing their labour for constructions of useful public assets.

**Special policy initiative to promote sports**

2863. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest special policy initiatives to promote and project sports and games in general and in respect of certain popular games and sports in particular;

(b) whether there has been some outstanding achievements and performance due to such initiatives in the recent past; and